IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 11-17, 26, 27, 34 and 35.

Amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) A composition comprising an antibody which specifically reacts with [a protein of claim 1] an isolated IL-13bc protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 22 to 334;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 357 to 383;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

Add new claims 50-57.

50. An inhibitor of IL-13 binding to the IL-13 receptor, said inhibitor being identified by a method comprising the steps of:

combining a protein selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 22 to 334;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 357 to 383;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380,

with IL-13 or a fragment thereof, said combination forming a first binding mixture;

measuring the amount of binding between the protein and the IL-13 or fragment in the first binding mixture;

combining a compound with the protein and the IL-13 or fragment to form a second binding mixture;

measuring the amount of binding in the second binding mixture; and

comparing the amount of binding in the first binding mixture with the amount of binding in the second binding mixture;

wherein the compound is capable of inhibiting IL-13 binding to the IL-13 receptor when a decrease in the amount of binding of the second binding mixture occurs.

39 ~~51~~. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the inhibitor of claim 38 ~~50~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40 ~~52~~. A method of inhibiting binding of IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition of claim 39 ~~51~~.

41 ~~53~~. A method of inhibiting binding IL-13 to the IL-13 receptor in a mammalian subject, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antibody which specifically reacts with an isolated IL-13bc protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 22 to 334;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 357 to 383;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 26 to 341; and
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 from amino acids 363 to 380.

42 ~~54~~. A method for potentiating IL-13 activity, said method comprising combining a protein having IL-13 activity with an isolated IL-13bc protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 22 to 334;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acids 357 to 383;
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4;